

The **First Mention of "Base Ball" in Arkansas** appeared in the March 19th, 1867 edition of the Arkansas Gazette.

Excerpt

*"The Base Ball Club will meet at St. John's College grounds on Saturday evening."*¹

1. Arkansas Gazette, 3/19/1867

The **First Baseball Game in Arkansas** was recorded by the Arkansas Gazette on May 14th, 1867. The newspaper piece described a game between the Pulaski Base Ball Club and the Galaxy Base Ball Club played on May 11th, the first of its kind recorded in Arkansas.

History

The Gazette reported the game this way:

"Base Ball. – On Saturday last, the match between the Pulaski and Galaxy Base Ball Clubs, both of our city, was played at the Arsenal grounds. There were quite a number of spectators present, including many ladies, whose presence contributed greatly to the pleasure and harmony of the occasion. At 3 o'clock, the game was called. Nine innings were played, and resulted as follows:

Total Runs: 67 (Pulaski) . . . 15 (Galaxy)

The Pulaski was duly declared the winning club, by Mr. E. P. Bishop, the umpire selected for the occasion.' The Pulaski then gave three rousing cheers for the Galaxy, and for the umpire who had so fairly and impartially given his decisions, which were immediately acknowledged and returned by the Galaxy.

The utmost harmony and good feeling prevailed, and the evening was one to be remembered by all the lovers of this manly and interesting game.

The Galaxy played well, considering the youthfulness and inexperience of its members, and its very recent organization. We advise them not to be discouraged, by failure in this their first attempt, but to adopt the old adage 'try, try again.'"

Baseball Explained

A match game of baseball was played on Saturday, June 13, 1868, between the first and second nine, of the Rock City B.B.C. Owing to the Indian Game, the baseball game was not commenced until about 5 o'clock. The Indians were invited to be present, which invitation was accepted at the conclusion of the game at the arsenal.

The game was explained to them by Mr. Young, of the Rock City. Quite a number of

spectators were present, among whom were many ladies.

The members of the rock City extend their thanks to the citizens for the interest taken in their club, and the game in general.

Rock City Beat Dixie 9 43-42 on Poor Baseball Field

STATE FAIR ~ Last week, October 13, 1869, the baseball championship of Arkansas was decided at the state fair in Little Rock. In a game that lasted over four hours, the Rock City baseball club defeated the Dixie baseball club by a score of 43 to 42. Poor field conditions contributed to the large number of runs scored. The game's outcome was in doubt until the final out. One observer said, "It was the closest and hardest contested game that has ever been played in Arkansas, or perhaps in the baseball world." Zeisler, shortstop for Rock City, scored seven runs to lead all players.

For their victory, Rock City was awarded a silver cup. (The awarding of such prizes is becoming a common practice nowadays.) After the game, there were loud cheers for all participants including a "rouser" for the clubs and a "tiger" for the umpire. Mr. H. King White of Pine Bluff, who served as umpire, was extremely fair to both clubs during the game.

Six players on the Rock City club are actually soldiers from the United States military arsenal in Little Rock. Because of this fact, some people are complaining that Rock City had an unfair advantage over Dixie.

Missing from the competition was the Frontier baseball club of Fort Smith. They planned to compete for the baseball championship. While en route to Little Rock from Fort Smith, their boat became stuck on a sandbar in the Arkansas River. The club was rescued after eighteen hours but reached Little Rock after the championship was already decided. While they could not play at the state fair, the Frontier Club played individual "match" games with the Rock City and Dixie baseball clubs. A party was held in honor of the Frontier club before their return to Fort Smith.